

1/25/71

Dear Sylvia,

Thanks for the / 1/22 modification re LHO NO library. This remains an interesting area, was of interest to JG's people very early, they did find some strange aspects I do not recall, including, I think, either literature, notations or both in books LHO had taken out, and there remains the fiction that he had Ferrie's card on him when apprehended, an invention that could not have been more perfectly designed to focus attention on him, his use of the library, and the books he had taken out.

Your SS report is consistent with one Bud got not too long ago and is not inconsistent with very early criticism from U. Baughman, former chief. Bud's report was even more pointed than the conclusion of your last par. It seems unlikely to me, however, that precautions as extensive as those Bud outlined would or could have been feasible in most large cities.

With Rowley, I have no information, nor have I on why higher-echelon agents were not along. With regard to the absence of a camera truck, which may be related,

I do not now recall my source, but it seems this was one of the arrangements left to local arrangements committees.

It is possible that Rowley did accompany other Presidents when he had a lower rank, or because he felt it required of him, or because he enjoyed trips and the opportunity to meet and talk with local agents, etc. The one thing of which I am convinced, despite their rather large blunders, is that the SS is the agency least likely to have been involved in any kind of conspiracy. I know you do not really suggest this. They have also been cooperative in ways other agencies have not been, despite the severity of my criticisms of them. They have confirmed reports I have gotten not in WC materials and have supplied me with data not in those records, as you can see when you are here, and some of it is significant. They have been willing to discuss and explain certain things, including their attitudes about some things. And I think their record on declassification is better than that of any other agency closely concerned. I believe they will yet be more helpful.

Hastily,